

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7050
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 06636

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.12065: XDS-1 04/18/99 (SHERMAN, W.C.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, JA, CH, KN, KS, US, UR
SUBJECT: (C) SINO-JAPANESE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KOREA

REF: TOKYO 3775

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. SUMMARY: MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR MOCHIZUKI MET APRIL 10 IN BEIJING WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF KOREAN AFFAIRS. MOCHIZUKI FOUND HIS CHINESE COUNTERPART FRANK AND OBJECTIVE. PRC OFFICIAL MADE NO REFERENCE TO U.S. TROOP PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA, WAS NOT SANGUINE RE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ON SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO JAPANESE VIEWS ON ROK AND JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS, AND SAID HE HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED BY NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING FONMIN HO TAM'S RECENT TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.
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3. MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOSHIO MOCHIZUKI VISITED CHINA APRIL 7-15, AND MET FOR 90 MINUTES APRIL 10 WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF KOREAN AFFAIRS ZHANG RUIJIE. MOCHIZUKI HAD MET ZHANG AT LUNCHEON IN TOKYO FEBRUARY 28, WHEN ZHANG ACCOMPANIED MFA ASIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SHEN PING ON MOFA-SPONSORED

ORIENTATION VISIT TO JAPAN (REFTEL).

4. MOCHIZUKI TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 17 THAT HE HAD BEGUN HIS MEETING WITH ZHANG WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ROK AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY APPROACH, EMPHASIZING THAT SOUTH KOREA'S RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT BASICALLY "PEACE-ORIENTATED" FOREIGN POLICY. ZHANG ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ROK, BUT DID NOT COMMENT. MOCHIZUKI THEN DISCUSSED JAPAN-ROK BILATERAL RELATIONS, WITHOUT CONCEALING ANY OF DIFFICULTIES; E.G., TAKESHIMA/DOKTO, TRADE IMBALANCE, FISHERIES PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO MOCHIZUKI, ZHANG SEEMED LEAST WELL-INFORMED ON JAPANESE-ROK FISHING PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN WATERS OFF HOKKAIDO.

5. AFTER MOCHIZUKI PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, ZHANG SAID CHINA HOPED PRESENT DIALOGUE WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND SUCCEED. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS OPINION THERE WERE MANY DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN LONG DIVIDED, HAD DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING AND DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS. MOCHIZUKI WAS STRUCK BY ZHANG'S OBJECTIVITY: AT NO POINT DURING DISCUSSION OF SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE DID ZHANG BLAME ROK FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. ONLY SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN LINE WAS ZHANG'S COMMENT THAT PRESENT SITUATION OF TWO GERMANIES DID NOT APPLY TO KOREAN PENINSULA BECAUSE PYONGYANG'S FIRM POLICY WAS TO SEEK REUNIFICATION.
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6. ZHANG ALSO CONFESSED TO MOCHIZUKI THAT KOREAN PROBLEM WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO STUDY AND MANAGE. HE REPEATED THIS AT LEAST THREE TIMES DURING THEIR CONVERSATION, WHICH MOCHIZUKI TOOK TO INDICATE CHINESE DISCOMFITURE WITH BEHAVIOR OF NORTH KOREA, ESPECIALLY WITH LATTER'S TIES TO SOVIET UNION. MOCHIZUKI THOUGHT THAT DESPITE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC GESTURES OVER PAST YEAR IN LEANING TO CHINESE SIDE, E.G., CRITICISM OF CUBA AND VIETNAM'S INVASION OF CAMBODIA, CHINESE WERE TROUBLED BY PYONGYANG'S SILENCE ABOUT CHINA'S "PUNISHMENT" OF VIETNAM. IN AN ASIDE, MOCHIZUKI SAID HE ALSO FELT THAT, GIVEN EVENTS OF PAST YEAR (SINO-JAPANESE TREATY, U.S.-CHINA NORMALIZATION, SOVIET-VIETNAM TREATY, SINO-VIETNAM WAR, ABOLITION OF SINO-SOVIET TREATY, ETC.), SOVIETS WOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, INASMUCH AS VALUE OF PYONGYANG TO SOVIET ASIAN DIPLOMACY HAD INCREASED.

7. RETURNING TO DISCUSSION WITH ZHANG, MOCHIZUKI SAID LATTER ASSERTED THAT PAST YEAR IN NORTH KOREA, FIRST IN CURRENT SEVEN-YEAR PLAN, HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL ECONOMICALLY. ZHANG BELIEVED KEY FACTOR FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF NORTH

KOREA WAS EXPORT OF QUALITY MANUFACTURED GOODS, AND COMMENTED THAT PYONGYANG NEEDED TO IMPROVE ITS QUALITY CONTROL. MOCHIZUKI SAID ZHANG ALSO SEEMED INFORMED ABOUT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA.

8. MOCHIZUKI SAID ZHANG HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO U.S. TROOP PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA -- ONLY MENTION OF U.S. MOCHIZUKI COULD RECALL WAS PASSING REFERENCE TO RATHER LARGE U.S. CONTINGENT GOING TO NORTH KOREA FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT, AND FACT THAT CHINA

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WAS ALSO SENDING LARGE DELEGATION.

9. MOCHIZUKI THOUGHT IT INTERESTING THAT WHEN HE RAISED TOPIC OF DPRK FONMIN HO TAM'S RECENT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND IRAN, ZHANG REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED BY PYONGYANG GOVERNMENT ABOUT TRIP. ZHANG DID COMMENT THAT NORTH KOREA WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, POSITION WHICH, ACCORDING TO ZHANG, NOW RESEMBLED THAT OF YUGOSLAVIA IN THAT PYONGYANG ALSO OPPOSED CUBAN EFFORTS TO ASSERT LEADERSHIP OF NAM. ZHANG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOVIET UNION WAS MAKING BEHIND-SCENES EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CUBAN MANEUVERING AMONG NON-ALIGNED.

10. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, ZHANG THANKED MOCHIZUKI FOR HIS COMMENTS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS VERY "FRANK AND USEFUL."

ZHANG DID NOT SUGGEST REGULAR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS,
BUT RENEWED INVITATION FOR MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION
DIRECTOR MATANO TO VISIT PRC. MOCHIZUKI TOLD EMBOFF
MATANO PROBABLY WOULD DO SO SOMETIME THIS YEAR.
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11. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH STILL ONLY IN INITIAL STAGES,
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN ON KOREA STRIKES
US AS ONE MORE POSITIVE OUTGROWTH OF SINO-JAPANESE TREATY
(AND PERHAPS OF SINO-U.S. NORMALIZATION) AND COULD PROVE
HELPFUL TO US AS WE SEEK INCREASED CHINESE UNDERSTANDING
FOR OUR POSITION -- WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF GOJ
-- WITH REGARD TO KOREAN PENINSULA. MANSFIELD

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